

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03985 220206Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: POORG, UNGA, US, SZ

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MEETS WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
SWISS FOREIGN MINISTRY WEITNAUER

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SWISS FOREIGN MINISTRY WEITNAUER,
ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR SIGISMOND MARCUARD, PERMANENT
SWISS OBSERVER TO THE UN, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG
OCTOBER 21 TO DISCUSS MATTERS PRIMARILY RELATED TO
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO WEITNAUER'S QUESTION ABOUT HOW WE VIEW
THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA AND
RHODESIA, YOUNG REPLIED THAT OUR STRATEGY IS COMPLICATED
BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA.WE CAN,
HE SAID, EXPECT NO HELP FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
BUT NEITHER CAN SOUTH AFRICA INDEFINITELY IMPEDE THE
DEVELOPMENTS GOING ON IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA
WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO INDEPENDENCE FOR BOTH
STATES. DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS STARKLY
REALISTIC ABOUT EVENTS IN EACH COUNTRY, YOUNG STATED
THAT THERE WERE SOME AREAS WHERE THE INTRANSIGENCE AND
STUBBORNESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MADE THE
PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS DIFFICULT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03985 220206Z

3. YOUNG STATED THAT THE RECENT REPRESSIVE MEASURES IN
SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CRACKING DOWN ON VARIOUS MODERATE
ELEMENTS WAS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND WOULD MAKE IT ONLY
MORE DIFFICULT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO RESOLVE ITS OWN
INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

4. YOUNG INFORMED WITNAUER AND MARCUARD THAT THOUSANDS OF GUERRILLAS IN ZIMBABWE ENJOY THE SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. APPROXIMATELY 50,000 LIBERATION FIGHTERS HAVE FLED, HE SAID, TO NEIGHBORING STATES AND WILL WHEN THEY RETURN BE MORE MILITANT THAN EVER. YOUNG STATED THAT THE ARMY OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL BE THE CADRE UPON WHICH THE MILITARY FORCE OF A FUTURE GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE WILL BE BASED.

5. WEITNAUER THEN ASKED FOR YOUNG'S VIEWS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE WHITES WHO ELECT TO REMAIN ON IN ZIMBABWE AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

6. YOUNG REPLIED THAT THE WHITE SOCIETY COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEPARATE GROUPS. THE FIRST, HE SAID, WERE THOSE WHO, FOR THE MOST PART, IMMIGRATED TO RHODESIA FOLLOWING WORLD WAR TWO AND WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE THE COUNTRY AFTER ITS INDEPENDENCE. THOSE WITH DEEPER ROOTS, WHO HAD SETTLED IN RHODESIA EARLIER AND WHO ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE BLACK ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY WILL PROBABLY REMAIN ON. REFERRING TO MOZAMBIQUE, HE NOTED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF WHITES, FOR THE MOST PART UNDER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE, HAVE REMAINED IN THE COUNTRY AND THAT LARGE GROUPS OF YOUNG PORTUGUESE ARE BEGINNING TO DRIFT BACK TO ANGOLA. THE ANGOLAN GVERNEMENT IS, HOWEVER, SCREENING OUT YOUNG MARXIST INTELLECTUALS IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03985 220206Z

FAVOR OF THE TECHNICIANS THAT ANOGLA BADLY NEEDS TO HELP IN THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

7. WEITNAUER THEN ASKED WHETHER WALVIS BAY WOULD BE AN IMPEDIMENT IN THE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF NAMIBIA. YOUNG SAID THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM HE THOUGHT THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT SEEK A PRAGMATIC SOLUTION IN TURNING OVER WALVIS BAY TO NAMIBIA BUT NEGOTIATING ON A COUNTRY -TO-COUNTRY BASIS SO AS TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE WALVIS BAY FOR THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF BOTH COUNTRIES. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, SOUTH AFRICA ATTEMPTED TO HOLD ON TO WALVIS, YOUNG SPECULATED THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF NAMIBIA WOULD BE A PRETTY IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

7. CONCLUDING ON A PHILOSOPHICAL NOTE, YOUNG OBSERVED THAT THE CONSERVATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION, ARE PROBABLY MORE CAPABLE OF FLEXIBILITY AND COMPROMISE WITH THE RADICAL LEFT THAN WERE THE LIBERALS OF THE COUNTRY WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO APPEAR TOO EASILY DISPOSED TO NEGOTIATE THE FINAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. YOUNG DISMISSED THE CONCEPT THAT THE COMMUNISTS COULD BE SADDLED WITH THE

PRINCIPAL BLAME FOR THE TROUBLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID, BECAUSE OF ITS INTRANSIGENCE WAS THE PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR TO THE DILEMMA. THERE WAS, HE SAID, SOME CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM IN VIEWING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM A LONGER PERSPECTIVE. BOTH MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WERE GRADUALLY MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE WEST. THIS FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT COULD, HOWEVER, BE BROUGHT TO AN ABRUPT HALT IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT EXPLODED A NUCLEAR DEVICE. IF THAT HAPPENED YOUNG STATED THAT THE DRIFT TOWARD THW WESTERN CAMP WOULD BE ABRUPTLY HALTED AND BOTH MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WOULD SEEK MISSILES FROM ANYONE PREPARED TO SUPPLY THEM. THEREFORE, THE INSISTENCE ON THE PART OF SOUTH AFRICA IN CONSTRUCTING ITS OWN NUCLEAR WEAPON WAS MAKING IT EASIER
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PAGE 04 USUN N 03985 220206Z

FOR A SOVIET PENETRATION OF THE GENERAL AREA.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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